
Idaho State Capitol Commission

Official Minutes

September 13, 2018

A meeting of the Idaho State Capitol Commission was held on this date in Room #155, Len B. Jordan Building, Boise, Idaho. Secretary Geddes called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Attendees

Members Present:

Robert Geddes, Director, Department of Administration, and Secretary/Ex-Officio Member
Eric Milstead, Director, Legislative Services Office (LSO) and Ex-Officio Member
Janet Gallimore, Executive Director, State Historical Society (ISHS) and Ex-Officio Member
Marilyn Whitney, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor (via teleconference)
Representative Neil Anderson (via teleconference)
Mary Symms-Pollot
Nancy Sue Wallace (via teleconference)

Absent and Excused:

Andy Erstad, Chairman
Senator Chuck Winder

Others/Staff Present:

Keith Reynolds, Deputy Director and CFO, Department of Administration
Jan Frew, Administrator, Division of Public Works (DPW)
Barry Miller, Deputy Administrator, DPW
Lindsay Erb, Project Manager, DPW
Tony Eldeen, Analyst, Division of Financial Management
Jill Randolph, Analyst, LSO
Maggie Smith, Analyst, LSO
Terri Kondeff, Chief Operations Officer, LSO
Laura Steffler, Deputy Treasurer, Office of the State Treasurer (via teleconference)
Diane Blume, Program Specialist, Department of Administration

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Commissioner Gallimore moved and it was seconded by Commissioner Milstead that the minutes of the August 6, 2018 Idaho State Capitol Commission meeting be approved as written. The motion passed unanimously.

Design and Construction Committee

Project Update

Proposed House of Representatives Office Space

Commissioner Milstead pointed out that Speaker Bedke is interested in providing more office space for House members, who are currently housed in small cubicles in the garden level of the capitol. Besides the need for more space, there is also a desire to provide more privacy for conducting business.

The plan is to move members into 26 newly constructed offices on the first-floor east wing. Much of the space in this area is currently occupied by the State Treasurer; however, the Treasurer's ceremonial office and vault would remain intact, he said. Space across the hall, currently housing LSO's Audit Division, would also be renovated into office space. A conference room and copy center on the first-floor north wing is planned to be renovated to accommodate the dislocated LSO Audit staff. The copy center and conference room would be relocated to the garden level.

The second part of the plan, he said, involves renovating cubicle space in the garden level and wings into office space for the remaining House members. This portion of the work has been placed on hold, however, after preliminary costs were identified. Legislative action is required to approve funds necessary to complete renovations on both floors.

The move and construction would begin as soon as possible after the 2019 legislative session. DPW has issued requests for architectural qualifications and the following week, he said, he will meet with DPW and Laura Steffler from the Treasurer's Office to review the responses.

Representative Anderson inquired about maintaining the vault and Ms. Frew responded that the capitol master plan has designated the Treasurer's ceremonial office and vault as historically significant. It is the commission's responsibility to make sure historic finishes and layout remain as they are.

Representative Anderson followed up with an inquiry about the commission's role in determining the best use of space in the capitol. Commissioner Geddes responded that a lot of negotiations and agreements were made during the restoration of the capitol. The original plan accommodated the Treasurer's Office on the first floor. Since, however,

statute was passed giving the House and Senate authority over space on the first floor of the capitol.

Commissioner Symms-Pollot asked why individual offices for the House weren't constructed during the restoration project. Commissioner Geddes noted that at the time, the House had indicated it wanted to continue its culture of conducting business at House members' desks in the chamber. However, the restoration changed the dynamics of interaction that used to take place on the third floor. Most interaction now takes place in the garden level where committee rooms are located, he said.

The original design of the restoration was for two underground levels, he recalled. The Governor rejected the lower floor and one of his accommodations was to give up his authority of the first floor of the capitol. Nevertheless, all elected officials who were housed in the capitol at that time were able to maintain their historic ceremonial offices. This included the Attorney General, and Secretary of State.

Commissioner Whitney asked if there is a plan for accommodating those entities displaced because of this project. Commissioner Milstead indicated the House is responsible for its move to the first floor, LSO is responsible for relocating the Legislative Auditor's Office, and the Treasurer is responsible for finding new space and moving.

Ms. Frew pointed out the Capitol Usage Manual, that was written in cooperation with the legislature, indicates that the proposed project is considered a "major" building change. Consequently, any major change is to be approved by the issuing agency leadership, and Capitol Commission. This body will need to approve the major change once the preliminary design is complete, she said.

Next Meeting of the Commission

The Commission will conduct its next official meeting in February 2019.

Adjournment

MOTION: Commissioner Gallimore moved, and it was seconded by Commissioner Milstead that the September 13, 2018 meeting of the Idaho Capitol Commission be adjourned at 1:40 pm. The motion passed unanimously.



Diane K. Blume, Program Specialist
Department of Administration